

REMARKS

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5). Specifically, the Office Action states that the drawings do not show the reference signs for a “vent pipe 126.” The “vent pipe 126” is shown in Fig. 14. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-9 and 11-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1, 9 and 15 have been amended in a readily apparent manner to address this rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-9 and 11-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatanaka et al. in view of Gerhardt et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, because the cited references, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the claimed deflector positioned above the outlet of the wind tunnel for deflecting coffee beans carried by the airflow exiting the wind tunnel.

The Hatanaka et al. reference discloses a coffee bean roaster which provides both radiant and convection heating for roasting coffee beans. The roaster includes a glass pipe (14) which fits into a roasting chamber (1). The roaster also includes a channel separation cylinder (13) arranged generally concentric with the glass pipe and is spaced above the bottom of the roasting chamber. Coffee beans are carried through the channel separation cylinder by a hot airflow generated at the bottom of the roasting chamber, and exit the channel separation cylinder through an outlet at the top.

The channel separation cylinder of Hatanaka et al. includes an inlet opening through which the beans enter and an outlet opening through which the beans exit the channel separation cylinder. As clearly shown in Fig. 1 of the reference, the device of Hatanaka et al. does not disclose (or suggest) any means, i.e., a deflector, for deflecting the coffee beans that exit from the channel separation cylinder, as in the present invention.

The Gerhardt et al. reference discloses a coffee roaster including controls for controlling the roasting parameters of the roasting process. Gerhardt et al. teaches using a roasting basket 21 which rotates to roast and remove chaff from the beans which drop from the rotating basket and collect in a chaff collection tray 34. The beans in the roasting basket 21 are heated by heating elements 31 (not shown in the Figures). The reference teaches that “[h]eat from heating element 31 is uniformly maintained in the roasting basket 21 via inner heat deflector cone 32” (emphasis added) (col. 3, lines 56-57). Thus, Gerhardt et al. teach a heat deflector cone, but does not disclose (or suggest) a deflector for deflecting coffee beans carried by the airflow exiting the wind tunnel, as in the present invention.

Neither the Hatanaka et al. reference nor the Gerhardt et al. reference teaches a deflector positioned above the outlet of the wind tunnel for deflecting coffee beans carried by the airflow exiting the wind tunnel. Therefore, even if these references were combined, the resulting device still would not disclose or suggest this feature of the invention. For this reason, independent claims 1 and 9, and their respective dependent 3-8 and 11-14, are allowable over the cited reference.

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatanaka et al. in view of Helman et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate features of claims 17 and 18, which appears not to have been rejected. Claim 15 now recites that a smoke vent attachment includes a plurality of feet for engaging mounting holes on the cover and a plurality of arms for enabling the vent attachment to be connected to an opening of a vent pipe. These features are not disclosed in the cited references, alone or in combination. Accordingly, claim 15 and its dependent claims 16-17 are now believed to be allowable.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. The Examiner should contact Applicants' undersigned attorney if a telephone conference would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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